[Translation]

Pending Projects of Gauge Conversion

4067. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals regarding conversion of metre gauge lines into broad guage lines in Maharashtra are pending with the Government for approval;

(b) if so, the details of each project alongwith the amount of funds allocated therefor;

(c) whether any new project has been taken up for gauge conversion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted for their selection;

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(f) the present position regarding laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

(f) The present position regarding laying of new railway lines in Maharashtra is as under :

Name	Present Status	Target Date for Completion
1. Amravati-Narkhed	Land acquisition is in progress. Part work on earthwork in Narkhed Yard is in progress. Work on new station building at Amravati and foot-over-bridge at Narkhed is in full swing.	2001-02
2. Panvel-Karjat	Work has beeen cleared by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. Tenders for earth-work, minor and major bridges and single line tunnel have been invited.	1998-99

[English]

Upgradation of Suburban Train Facilities in Karnataka

4068. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to upgrade the suburban train facilities in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of new trains proposed to be provided stoppage at Bangalore, Hubli, Bijapur, Davangere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Mangalore and Mysore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Improvement of travel facilities, including for suburban travel, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways subject to traffic justification, availability of resources (including DMU/Push Pull/EMU/MEMU rakes for suburban services) and operational feasibility. There is no proposal at present to introduce additional trains for suburban commuters in Karnataka. However, as and when new trains are introduced in future serving Karnataka, provision of the stoppages at Bangalore, Hubli, Bijapur, Davengere, Gulbarga, Hassan, Mangalore and Mysore can be provided subject to traffic justification.

[Translation]

First Air Taxi Service in M.P.

4069. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that Sam Verma has started a company on January 7, 1992 under the name Continental Aviation Private Limited for providing the first air taxi service in Madhya Pradesh by private sector and after operating the air service for eighth months the company winded up the business on May 22, 1993 after duping crores of rupees from National Airports Authority of India and other institutions;

(b) if so, the reasons for failure of this air service;

(c) the amount of loss incurred to the Government on account of this company; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for recovering the due amount?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Permit to operate air taxi services was